



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, October 19, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

TV Asahi gave top play to a report that North Korea released a statement through state media on the ongoing joint U.S.-ROK military training saying that it is preparing an "extremely powerful countermeasure." NTV and Fuji TV led with a report on a blackout at Tokyo's Sangenjaya Station today. NHK and TBS gave top play to reports on the extremely cold weather in Tokyo.

INTERNATIONAL

China under President Xi – Part 2

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" continued to report on China under the leadership of President Xi, focusing on the economy. The program said President Xi is planning to change the economy from a "copy-driven" to an "innovation-driven" one. The program reported from Shanghai, where people's lifestyles are changing due to unique new services using the latest technologies including QR codes. Chinese IT firms are rapidly creating new products and services, such as *360-degree* cameras for smartphones. According to the program, emerging new technologies in China are presenting new business opportunities for Japanese companies.

- [Gov't arranging emperor's meeting with Trump: source](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Game on for Abe and Trump, as leaders' round of golf set for Nov. 5](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [S. Korean, Japanese nuclear envoys discuss N. Korea threats](#) (Kyodo News)
- [MOFA bureau chief to visit Russia, may make contact with DPRK diplomat](#) (Asahi)

- [EU's diplomatic channels with N. Korea may benefit Japan: envoy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Welcoming President Trump](#) (Asahi)
- [Vietnamese family members of former WWII Japanese soldiers visit Japan](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan both relieved and worried as NAFTA renegotiations continue](#) (Nikkei)
- [EU authorities recommend firms stop procuring Kobe Steel products](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to require new cooling system for boiling water reactors](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Renewed interest in “mother factories” among Japanese manufacturers](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese farm lobbies concerned about reforms after election](#) (Jiji Press)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 18, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Constitutional revision debate to accelerate with ruling parties' predicted election victory](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Gov't, ruling parties eye special Diet session soon after election](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Political parties irresponsible to delay fiscal rehabilitation measures](#) (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [CDPJ gaining support in LH election's proportional representation segment: Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Cabinet support rating at 38%, disapproval rating at 40%: Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

- [Efforts under way in Japan to detect fake news ahead of election](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

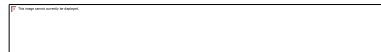
CH-53 helicopter being dismantled

TBS reported at noon that the dismantling of the CH-53 helicopter that made an emergency landing on privately-owned land in Takae, Okinawa, began this morning. The network said that according to the Okinawa Defense Bureau, the aircraft will be removed from the area as early as this afternoon. The network added that the Okinawa Police have not been allowed to inspect the area because they have not been granted permission by the U.S. side, which is required under the SOFA.

U.S. military vehicle knocks down traffic light in Okinawa

TV Asahi reported at noon that a 30-meter-long U.S. Marine Corp trailer knocked down a traffic light and a street light near Camp Hansen at about 3 a.m. today right after it departed the base and made a left turn. The network said although no one was injured, Route 329 was closed for 6.5 hours as a result.

- [Cruise missile interception eyed for Aegis Ashore](#) (The Japan News)
- [Camera makers exhibit security prowess at Tokyo anti-terror show](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)



Okinawa governor calls for removal of Takae helipads

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported extensively on the reaction in Okinawa to the U.S. Marines' resumption on Wednesday of flight operations of CH-53 helicopters. Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Governor Onaga expressed for the first time his intention to call for the removal of the six helipads in the Northern Training Area by telling reporters: "We desperately want the use of the helipads to be suspended, but the removal of the facilities is what we really want." The paper speculated that the governor mentioned calling for the removal of the helipads for the first time in response to a resolution calling for the suspension of the use of the facilities that was adopted by residents of the Takae district of Higashi Village last week and the growing concern expressed by citizens of Okinawa ahead of the Oct. 22 general election. The paper also wrote that Vice Governor Tomikawa summoned Director General Nakajima of the Defense Ministry's Okinawa Bureau and MOFA Ambassador to Okinawa Kawada on Wednesday to tell them that the Okinawa Prefectural Government has doubts about the abilities of the central government since it allowed the Marines' to resume the helicopter operations. Meanwhile, Okinawa Times wrote that the prefectural government and the defense bureau announced at a news conference on Wednesday that their investigation detected no abnormal levels of radioactive material at the site of the accident involving a CH-53 helicopter or in the surrounding area.

